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USING RED SQUILL POISON FOR RATS

While it is desirable and possible to rat-proof newly constructed buildings to keep rats out of the house entirely, other means of dealing with them must be used, once they get in. Starvation is the first precaution, keeping all foods in secure containers and taking the greatest care that nothing attractive to rats is left about.

Red squill poison baits are effective against rats. Several kinds of bait mixtures are used, because the rats will become wary of any one food. It is a good idea to "prebait", that is, use various mixtures without poison for a night or two, and then set up poison stations where the rats are known to feed and live. About a level tablespoonful of bait is used in one spot. Bait may be spread on small rounds of cardboard, which are easy to gather up and destroy; or put into paper bags, with the tops tied. Care should be used to keep pets out of the way when rat poison is about, and not to use the baits above the ground floor of a dwelling. The formulas given below will not kill cats, dogs, or poultry, but are likely to make the mammals sick and cause them to vomit.

Formula I: Red squill oven-dried powder, 1 ounce; lean hamburger meat, 15 ounces; corn meal, 1 ounce. Mix the dry poison with the corn meal first, then add the meat and as much water as needed to make a sticky, but not wet, mixture.

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(Using Red Squill Poison For Rats)

Formula II: Red squill, 1 ounce; canned salmon or mackerel, 15 ounces; oatmeal, 1 ounce; and water as needed. Mix the red squill with the oatmeal first, then add the fish and water as needed.

Formula III: Red squill, 1 ounce; corn meal, 16 ounces. Mix thoroughly and add sufficient water.

By changing formulas frequently the natural suspicion of the rats is allayed.

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